

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1245
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 01814

USICA

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFO)

USICA FOR PGM/GF, PGM/PPN, VOA/PN

E.O.11652: N/A
SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE AND ISRAEL
PM MENACHEM BEGIN AFTER MEETING HELD AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE JULY 2, 1978, 5:30P.M.

1. V.P. MONDALE: "WE'VE JUST COMPLETED ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF TALK
WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF
THE CABINET WHICH COVERED A WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES OF CONCERN TO OUR
TWO NATIONS. WE DISCUSSED MATTERS OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY, SOME OF
WHICH INVOLVES SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT ARE CLASSIFIED. I MADE CLEAR THE
PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT OF WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS AWARE THAT WE
STAND BEHIND ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND WILL NOT IN ANY WAY CONDITION THE
ESSENTIAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ON DIFFERENCES THAT MAY
ARISE IN NEGOTIATING POSTURES. WE ALSO DISCUSSED BROADER ISSUES OF
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS AND OUR MUTUAL DESIRE THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE
RECOMMENCED. WE DISCUSSED THE HOPEFULLY UPCOMING TALKS BETWEEN
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN LONDON AND HAD A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE
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CURRENT PROBLEMS, CURRENT POSSIBILITIES IN SEEKING NEGOTIATIONS
TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT."

2. P.M. BEGIN: "WE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS OF THE PEACE MAKING PROCESS
AND HOW TO RENEW THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE VICE PRESIDENT AND HIS
COLLEAGUES - MY COLLEAGUES AND MYSELF - AGREE THAT THE PEACE
MAKING PROCESS SHOULD CONTINUE AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE

DISRUPTED IN DECEMBER SHOULD BE RENEWED. THEY MAY BE SOON--
THE PROPOSAL MADE BY EGYPT, WE SHALL LEARN ABOUT IT DURING THE
WEEK AND THAT ALSO AS WE ASSUME THERE MAY BE CONTACTS BETWEEN
AN EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE AND AN ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE. WE
WILL KNOW ABOUT THESE TWO POSSIBILITIES DURING THE WEEK OR
NEXT WEEK. SO WE SHALL BE ABLE TO INFORM THE PRESS ABOUT IT
IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE CONFERENCE WAS VERY POSITIVE - THE
DISCUSSION WAS GOOD AND IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP IT WAS
CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MYSELF AND OUR COLLEAGUES."

3. Q: "HAVE YOU AGREED ON HOW TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS?"

4. V.P. MONDALE: "FIRST OF ALL WE AGREE THAT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT
THE NEGOTIATIONS BE RESUMED THE NEXT IMPORTANT STEP WILL BE THE
PROPOSED MEETINGS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MID-JULY IN
LONDON. THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. WE HOPE THAT THAT WILL
TAKE PLACE--AND IF IT DOES, IT WOULD BE AT THAT MEETING THAT
WE WOULD HAVE THE EGYPTIANS' PROPOSALS, THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS THAT
WERE PRESENTED SOME TIME AGO AND RESUMED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS
CONCERNING THOSE PROPOSALS AND OTHER MODALITIES THAT MIGHT
SPEED ALONG THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS."

5. Q. (INAUDIBLE) - V.P. MONDALE: "WE DISCUSSED THE AMERICAN
POSITION AND SUGGESTIONS ALONG THE LINES OF 242. WE WENT INTO
THE MATTER OF OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSURE THAT INsofar AS WE CAN
INFLUENCE THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT THE SECURITY NEEDS AND CONCERNS
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OF ISRAEL BE FULLY MET. WE DID NOT GET INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS
AT THIS MEETING. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT I HAVE HAD
DISCUSSIONS, RATHER THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN EARLIER IN THE DAY WHERE WE DID DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS,
BUT IN GENERAL TERMS. TOMORROW WE WILL MEET AGAIN WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER AND UNDOUBTEDLY THESE ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED."

6. Q: "IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD CHARACTERIZE AS A CHANGE IN
THE ISRAELI POSITION...." (INAUDIBLE)?

7. V.P. MONDALE: "NO, I WOULD NOT. I WOULD SAY WE WERE AT THE SAME
POSITION."

8. Q. (INAUDIBLE). V. P. MONDALE: "WELL, I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE
CATEGORICALLY THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE IN BOTH PLANS AS INITIALLY
SUBMITTED-PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT THE OTHER SIDE FINDS UN-
ACCEPTABLE. THERE MAY BE OTHER PARTS OF THOSE PLANS THAT ARE
ACCEPTABLE OR SUSCEPTIBLE OF NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TOWARD SOME
AGREEMENT. WHAT WE NEED IS TO GET THE PARTIES INTO AN NEGOTIATING
POSTURE WHERE THAT SORT OF FACE-TO-FACE DIRECT NEGOTIATION
BRINGS ABOUT THE BROADEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING. THE TROUBLE
WITH THE PRESENT POSTURE IS THAT PLANS ARE TABLED WITHOUT THE

OTHER PARTY IN NEGOTIATIONS AND I THINK THAT IN THE NATURE OF SUCH A SITUATION, IT TENDS TO BE STATED IN THE BEGINNING NEGOTIATING POSTURE. AND IT'S ONLY NEGOTIATIONS THAT REALLY TEST HOW MUCH THE ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED."

9. "IS MR BEGIN...(INAUDIBLE)

10. V.P. MONDALE: "WELL,TODAY WE HAD A VERY GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH THE FULL CABINET. WE WERE GOING TO BE TALKING AGAIN TOMORROW."

NOTE BY OC/T: SS AND SAA TAKE AS ORIGINAL MESSAGE.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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11. Q:"BESIDES THE MEETING IN LONDON?"

12. V.P. MONDALE:"I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND THE LONDON CONFERENCE. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL FROM THE EGYPTIANS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN TALKING TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE. I CANNOT SAY IT WILL AS YET."

13. Q:"MR. VICE PRESIDENT, HOW,-IF AT ALL,-HAVE YOU NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES HERE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL WITH RESPECT TO EH RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS?"

14. MONDALE:"WELL, AS I SAID,THE PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS IS NOT TO NEGOTIATE, BUT TO BRING UP TO DATE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES THAT THEN

CAN BE USED BY THE NEGOTIATORS. AND IT WAS NOT THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING NEGOTIATING POSTURES THAT THESE MEETINGS WERE HELD."

15.Q:(INAUDIBLE)

16.MONDALE:"AMERICA IS PLAYING THE ROLE AS A FRIENDLY MEDIATOR.
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17. Q:"MR. PRIME MINISTER DID YOU ASK ABOUT CLARIFICATION FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S LATEST STATEMENT?"

18. P.M. BEGIN:"NO THIS PROBLEM DID NOT COME UP. WE READ THE STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND WE UNDERSTOOD IT. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS HERE THAT CHRONOLOGICALLY AS WE ALSO SAID DURING THE CONFERENCE, FIRST WE SHOULD GET THE PROPOSALS BY EGYPT AS PROMISED AND WE WANT O READ IT, STUDY IT, TO ANALYSE IT AND THEN WE SHALL DECIDE ABOUT A MEETING WHICH WILL OF COURSE TAKE PLACE AFTER WE HAVE HAD THE TIME TO LOOK INTO THE PROPOSAL BY EGYPT. THIS SHOULD BE AS I HOPE IT WILL BE THE SEQUENCE OF THE EVENTS."

19. Q: INAUDIBLE

10. P.M. BEGIN:"WE HELD A VERY GOOD CONFERENCE AND THE MAIN PROBLEM NOW IS HOW TO BRING ABOUT THE RENEWAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I WANT TO SAY THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD BETWEEN PARTIES HAS EVER BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS AND VERY MANY PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND THEREFORE BOTH COUNTRIES..THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL SEE IT VERY SERIOUSLY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE RENEWED AS YOU REMEMBER. ISRAEL PRODUCED A PEACE PLAN. IN OUR OPINION IT'S GOOD AND FAIR. THE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THESE PEACE PLANS STARTED AND THEY WERE ABRUPTLY DISRUPTED. WHAT WE STAND FOR ALL THE TIME IS TO RENEW THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IF OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET -- THAT WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF SUCH RENEWAL."

21. Q. INAUDIBLE

22. P.M. BEGIN: "YES... YES OF COURSE. JUST ALLOW ME TO
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ANSWER THIS QUESTION FIRST .. YES OF COURSE WE DIDN'T REJECT ANY PEACE PLAN BECAUSE WE WERE NOT GIVEN A PEACE PLAN. BUT WHAT WAS PBULISHED ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT SADAT -

WHO IS THE RULER OF EGYPT - IS THAT WE SHOULD GIVE JORDAN - JUDEA AND SAMARIA - AND EGYPT THE GAZA STRIP. AND WE SAID THAT IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. THAT IS NOT ANY PEACE PLAN WHATSOEVER. IN OUR OPINION IT WAS TO THE OPPOSITE. HOWEVER, WHEN EGYPT BRINGS IT FORWARD WE WANT TO SEE IT, TO STUDY IT, TO ANALYZE IT AND ALSO ACT UPON IT."

23. Q: MR. PRIME MINISTER ... INAUDIBLE

24. V.P. MONDALE: "MAY I TAKE THAT MR. PRIME MINISTER?"

25. P.M. BEGIN: "YES, PLEASE DO."

26. V.P. MONDALE: "I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THAT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY SOME. THE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THE CURRENT STATUS OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. AND HE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE HOPE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE PRESENT FORMULA, NAMELY, FACE TO FACE, DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS IN ... ALONG THE LINES THAT WE'RE WORKING ON NOW. THEN, HE OBSERVED SOMETHING THAT IS WELL KNOWN AND RECOGNIZED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, THAT THERE'S THE U.N. SECURITY RESOLUTION CREATING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT IF ALL OTHER PROCESSES FAIL, IN OTHER WORDS, WHEN WE TRY EVERY WAY WE CAN AND ULTIMATELY, IN OTHER WORDS HE WAS NOT TRYING TO RAISE THIS AS A CURRENT PROSPECT, AND I BELIEVE THERE WAS SOME EMPHASIS GIVEN BY AT LEAST SOME STORIES THAT TOOK IT SUBSTANTIALLY OUT OF CONTEXT. I THINK IF YOU READ THE STATEMENT IT WILL ..." (DID NOT FINISH ANSWER)

27. PATIR (PRIME MINISTER'S SPOKESMAN): THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED. THAT'S IT.

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